

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4606

August 20, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to you today in support of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi of Iowa, known as Meskwaki Nation, to respectfully request a major disaster declaration following the derecho event on August 10, 2020 that caused massive destruction in Iowa's 1st Congressional District.

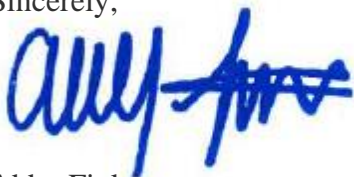
The Meskwaki Settlement is located in Tama County, where the effects of the derecho were especially severe. Like hundreds of thousands of Iowans, the Meskwaki Tribe is dealing with loss of power, debris, and damage to homes and personal property as well as infrastructure in the wake of the severe windstorm. Fortunately, there were no injuries or deaths on the Settlement, but the extent and severity of the damage is overwhelming.

Some 200 homes sustained damage during the storm, displacing more than 600 people. Safety concerns caused families to evacuate their homes and the Tribe has been providing food and shelter for hundreds of its members. The storm also caused significant damage to Tribal infrastructure, which is assessed at \$338,000, while an additional 145,200 cubic yards of debris must be removed. The storm has also caused damage to sacred lands and original sites of the Meskwaki ancestor's settlements, as well as other historical sites.

This comes as the Tribe is still dealing with the fallout of the ongoing pandemic, which has strained their resources. I urge you to not only approve their request quickly, but also work with the Tribe to waive the non-federal cost-share for federal disaster assistance if needed.

I am grateful for your consideration of the State's request for a major disaster declaration and hope that you will extend such aid to Meskwaki Nation. Thank you for your timely attention to this matter and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress